

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 BIB-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 SAJ-01 /089 W
----- 088913

R 231543Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECSTATE WASHDC 7335

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 34703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ELAB

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 11428; (B) PARIS 34651

1. IN VIEW OF REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE IN VIEWS EXPRESSED
REF (A) AND REF (B), WE ARE REPEATING LATTER FOR INFOR-
MATION OF THOSE NOT ON ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION.

2. FOLLOWING MESSAGE BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:
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QUOTE

1. IN MEETING WITH CSCE COMMISSION MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES FENWICK AND SIMON, ANTOINE LAVAL, NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF FRANCE'S LARGEST NON-COMMUNIST LABOR UNION, FORCE OUVRIERE, WAS BLUNT IN CRITICIZING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

2. LAVAL ARGUED THAT, FROM NON-COMMUNIST LABOR'S POINT OF VIEW, HELSINKI HAD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED THE ABILITY OF EASTERN EUROPEAN "LABOR" TO INSIST ON EXCHANGES OF VISITS AND ON OTHER PROJECTS LIKELY TO ENHANCE THEIR IMAGE AS LEGITIMATE COUNTERPARTS OF TRULY ELECTED WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS. FRANCE'S NON-COMMUNIST UNION LEADERSHIP WAS OF COURSE AWARE THAT "UNIONISM" IN THE BLOC WAS COMMUNIST PARTY THEATER. NEVERTHELESS COMMUNIST ORGANIZERS IN FRANCE WERE INCREASINGLY OFTEN ABLE TO PASS OFF SUCH EAST-BLOC LABOR VISITORS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF "BROTHER UNIONS" IN THE EAST. SOME OF THEM, MOVEOVER, WERE CAUSING EVEN MORE CONCRETE PROBLEMS (LAVAL USED THE TERM SUBVERSION) IN AGITATING FOR COMMUNIST UNIONSISM HERE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 34703

3. ASKED IF POSSIBLE INCREASES IN FRANCO-CEMA TRADE, AND THEREFORE OF FRENCH EMPLOYMENT, RESULTING FROM POSSIBLE PROGRESS UNDER BASKET II MIGHT OFFSET SOME OF THESE LESS DESIRABLE IMPLICATIONS OF CSCE, LAVAL AGAIN SAID NO. EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD CONSTITUTED A MINISCULE PERCENTAGE OF FRANCE'S FOREIGN TRADE. HIS UNION BELIEVED THEREFORE THAT FURTHER FRACTIONAL INCREASES AS A RESULT OF FREER EAST-WEST TRADE WOULD
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NOT OFFSET THE INCREASING LEGITIMACY OF EE AND SOVIET "UNIONS" IN FRANCE. LAVAL ADDED THAT IN HIS UNION'S VIEW GEORGE MEANY HAD BEEN ENTIRELY RIGHT IN HIS WELL-KNOWN CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD. FORCE OUVRIERE REGRETTED ONLY THAT MEANY HAD GONE SO FAR AS TO TAKE THE AFL-CIO OUT OF THE ICFTU OVER RELATED ISSUES IN 1969, SINCE MODERATE UNIONS LIKE FORCE OUVRIERE NOW GREATLY NEEDED THE MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT THE AFL-CIO COULD GIVE IN ICFTU IN FACE OF COMMUNIST UNION PRESSURES.

4. LAVAL CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF FRENCH UNIONISM, WHERE COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS ARE SO CLOSELY BALANCED, THE "FREE MOVEMENT" CALLED FOR BY THE FINAL ACT IS A TROUBLING ASSET FOR COMMUNIST UNIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE REPORT ABOVE FOR ITS INTRINSIC INTEREST, ALTHOUGH IT REPRESENTS LONG-HELD VIEWS BY FORCE OUVRIERE. IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES THAT "FREE MOVEMENT", LIKE OTHER ISSUES UNDER BASKETS II AND III, IS NOT AS ENTIRELY DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE AS THEY, AND WE OURSELVES, ARE OFTEN INCLINED TO ALLEGE. UNQUOTE
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